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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Hungary

DATE DISTR. 3 November 1952

SUBJECT

Artillery Regiment at Magyoroszi:

The Hungarian Artillery

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INFO.

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- Nagyoroszi is between Vác and Balassagyarmat. In April 1952, a tent camp
 was set up in the forest there, which is used by the artillery regiment of
 Mór. Summer training exercises began in April. The command called reservists
 for two or three months¹ drill. The 1 Reserve Artillery Abteilung was constituted in the camp from the first group of 500.
- 2. The artillery regiment of Mor is considered one of the best artillery units in the country. It was "outstandingly distinguished" during the maneuvers, both in the theoretical work and the practical exercises, as a result of which all—web the regiment got five days special leave, in groups of 100. In Mor, the regiment occupies the new barracks built in 1948. The regiment consists of four abteilungs, equipped mostly with 85 mm.guns. The commander is Captain Porkolab (fnu).
- 3. The following data apply to the Hungarian artillery in general:

Service in the artillery is for three years, but this is only a pretence and a supposition; actually, none of the artillery have been mustered out or released for years. On the other hand, more recruits are constantly called up for training. A recruit cannot elect the branch of service he will enter. Except for the "unreliable elements" who are assigned to labor service, the higher commands decide where the recruit will go.

4. Great weight is laid on political schooling. It begins the second day after induction. Those who display good progress in the political department can get passes and special leave. Soldiers who show little liking for political education must stay in the barracks on Sundays, and study.

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- 5. In regard to the food supply, the same methods are followed by all commanders. The food is excellent for the first two months; after that it grows scantier and poorer. Since the spring of 1952, the food has become so bad that the men often have only a cabbage soup for breakfast. It is fortunate that the men are permitted to eat as much bread as they wish.
- 6. Service language throughout the artillery is Hungarian. Russian terms of command are not taught. Up to now, no Soviet officers have been attached to the regiment of Mor, but the unit is inspected by a Soviet staff officer once or twice a month. He observes the drill, but has no direct contact with the troops. The Soviet controller for this regiment always comes from Budapest.
- 7. The men are embittered most of all over the poor and inadequate rations. The political instruction is found to be boring and tiresome. The attitude toward the enlisted men is harsh; they are loudly abused all the time, with or without good reason.
- 8. In many regiments the soldiers still wear old-style uniforms, but every soldier now at least has a Soviet uniform for parade. On leave, only Soviet uniforms may be worn. The "rubaska" (Soviet uniform shirt) is disliked because it is tight and uncomfortable, and the collar draws so that a man can hardly breathe.
- 9. The Soviet rifle is also unpopular. The bayonet alone is 43 cm.long, and the whole weapon with the bayonet is 165 cm.long, or the height of a medium-sized man. The soldiers call it an "overgrown musket." All soldiers feel downright ashamed when they have to stand guard duty in a Soviet uniform shirt with a Russian rifle. Fassing civilians often ask them what they are doing in this "eastern masquerade."
- 10. So far, women are not called to artillery service. At the regiment of Mor theme are only uniformed women information assistants. They wear skirts; the rest of the uniform is the same as that of the men. The service insignia are also the same. There are enlisted women, noncommissioned officers, and officers.

 | Solid regiment of Mor theme. They wear skirts; the rest of the uniform is the same as that of the men. The service insignia are also the same. There are enlisted women, noncommissioned officers, and officers.
- Il. The practice of saluting is strongly insisted upon in all branches of the service. Even the common soldiers must greet each other on the street. Women soldiers must also be saluted. Soviet military personnel must be given the salute first. Since Russians and Hungarians wear the same uniform, it is hard to recognize them at a distance in the streets. The Russians are mainly distinguishable by their looks. The other visible difference is that the Russian soldiers wear a red star on their caps; the Hungarians, a button with the coat of arms of the Hungarian People's Democracy. The service insignia, the color and cut of the uniforms, and the service colors are alike with Russians and Hungarians. The service color of the artillery is red; of the air force, bright blue; of the armored force, black, and of the infantry and AVH border guard, green. There are various small combinations and variations of colors and insignia; the service color of the "inland" AVH is blue.
- 12. A common soldier in the artillery is paid 64 forints a month; and an acting corporal gets 10 forints more. The base pay of a subaltern officer is 700 forints;

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•	he gets supplementary amounts according to his grade and rank. Subscription to the "peace loan" is obligatory for all; the minimum must be 100 forints. The "climbers" subscribe 300 to 400 forints, whereby they obtain more leave and other compensations. The pay scarcely suffices for cigarette money. The canteens can only be patronized by soldiers who receive money from home.
•	At the beginning of training the artillerymen receive a songbook entitled Szállj te büszke ének! ("Let the proud song flyt"). A weekly singing hour is
•	held to study the new Army songs.
	1. Comment: The artillery regiment referred to is probably the Heavy Artillery Regiment, 25X1
	Comment: "Porkolab" means in English, prison guard or jailer. It is probably used ironically here has a nickname; the occurrence of this term as a last name is highly unlikely.
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